IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s):

Herman Philip Godfried

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(Herewith)

Priority Claim:

99/4910

Priority Date:

July 30, 1999

Title of Invention:

A CUTTING BLADE FOR A SURGICAL

INSTRUMENT

Attorney Docket No.:

42377-00012

Box DO/EO/US Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with Applicant's duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97, Applicant hereby submits the attached form PTO-1449, (modified) which lists art cited. The art listed therein, while of some relevance, is not necessarily considered to teach or suggest any aspect of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified patent application. This statement is also not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted or that no better art exists. Rather, this statement discloses only the best art of which Applicant is aware.

In considering the art set forth below, it may be noted by the Examiner that certain references may contain markings, underlinings or other notations. These markings or notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other parts of the references. Any such markings were either present on the copies of the references obtained by Applicant, or were made thereon during the study of the references by the Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorneys.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references, indicate such consideration by initialing each reference on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) and return a copy of the same with the next communication to the Applicant. For the convenience of the Examiner in considering the references, copies of the cited references are enclosed with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial (100:048131 Docket No.: Form PTO-1449 Modified 42377-00012 (Not Yet Assigned) List of Patents and Publications Applicants: Cited by Applicant Herman Philip Godfried (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date: Group: U.S. Patent Department of Commerce (Herewith) Not Yet Known Patent and Trademark Office **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Cite Document No. Name Class Date Subclass **Initial** Code A1 3,786,814 Jan. 22, 1974 Armao 128 303.1 **A2** Nov. 18, 1986 128 4,622,966 Beard 303.14 **A3** 4,697,489 Oct. 6, 1987 Kim 83 856 Ellis et al. A4 5,376,099 Dec. 27, 1994 606 166 **A5** 5,480,398 Jan. 2, 1996 606 29 Eggers FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Examiner Cite Document No. **Country** Date **Translation** Initial Code Yes No United Kingdom **B**1 GB 2 060 397 A May 7, 1981 (English) B2 JP 08236517 A (Abstract) Sept. 13, 1996 Japan **B**3 JP 09246264 Sept. 19, 1997 Japan (Abstract) **B4** WO 98 21747 A **PCT** May 22, 1998 (Abstract X only) **OTHER DOCUMENTS Examiner** Cite Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc. Initial Code C1

DATE CONSIDERED

C2

EXAMINER: